

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 DHA-02 /089 W

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R 032240Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 368

INFO USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8740

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, MX, SP, CA, KS, PL, HU, UN

SUBJECT: CRITICISM OF THE FRANCO REGIME

REF MEXICO 8551 (NOTAL) AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: THE MEXICAN PRESS AND MANY PUBLIC FIGURES HAVE SPENT THE PAST WEEK HEAPING CRITICISM ON THE FRANCO REGIME. ON OCTOBER 2, FOUR NEWLY-ARRIVED FOREIGN AMBASADORS WERE INTERVIEWED ABOUT THEIR GOVERNMENTS' POSITIONS VIS-A-VIS SPAIN. PCM IS REPORTEDLY ORGANIZING MARCH AGAINST FRANCO AND IMPERIALISM FOR LATE AFTERNOON OCT. 3 DESPITE GOM'S REFUSAL GRANT PERMISSION FOR THIS MARCH. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE SEPT 27 EXECUTION OF FIVE TERRORISTS IN SPAIN MEXICAN OFFICIALS, COLUMNISTS, EDITORIAL WRITERS, AND TELEVISION AND RADIO COMMENTATORS HAVE SUBJECTED FRANCO REGIME TO STEADY STREAM OF CRITICISM. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S CALL FOR SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF SPAIN
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FROM UN CAPTURED HEADLINES IN ALL MEXICO CITY DAILIES

AND REPORTS OF TORTURE IN SPAIN AND ADVERSE REACTIONS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS HAVE RECEIVED BANNER HEADLINE TREATMENT DAILY FOR PAST FIVE DAYS IN VIRTUALLY ALL MEXICO CITY DAILIES.

3. FOLLOWING CEREMONY OCT. 2 IN WHICH FOUR NEWLY-ARRIVED FOREIGN AMBASSADORS PRESENTED THEIR CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, ALL WERE QUESTIONED ABOUT THEIR GOVERNMENTS' ATTITUDES WITH RESPECT TO RECENT EVENTS IN SPAIN. CANADA'S AMBASSADOR, JAMES CONINGSBY LANGLEY, SAID THAT POSITION OF HIS COUNTRY WITH RESPECT TO SPAIN "IS GOING TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY". HE ALSO IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY HAS CALLED HOME ITS AMBASSADOR TO MADRID "BECAUSE WE SEE THE PROBLEM (IN SPAIN) AS BEING VERY GRAVE." LANGLEY ADDED THAT THIS REACTION OF EUROPEAN NATIONS "SERVES TO ELIMINATE SOME OF THE DANGERS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE EXIST."

4. SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR SANG MOON CHANG POINTED OUT THAT HIS COUNTRY HAS NOT MADE AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN SPAIN. HE WENT ON TO SAY, "...I KNOW THAT THERE IS GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN WITHIN OUR (SOUTH KOREA'S) GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE EVENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE THERE (I.E. IN SPAIN); NEVERTHELESS, OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN CONTINUE." APPARENTLY PRESSED FOR FURTHER OPINIONS, CHANG SAID "THE EVENTS IN SPAIN, PER FORCE, WILL HAVE TO HAVE INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS AND WILL HAVE TO AFFECT (SPAIN'S) BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH A GREAT MANY COUNTRIES."

5. POLAND'S AMBASSADOR, JOSEF KLASA, SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT POSITION HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE WITH RESPECT TO THE MEXICAN PETITION TO UN CALLING FOR ISOLATION OF SPAIN WITH RESPECT TO ALL TYPES OF DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. HE ADDED, "I KNOW THAT OUR (POLAND'S) OPINION ABOUT THE FASCIST GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN IS DECIDEDLY NEGATIVE AND I EXPECT THAT WE WILL ALSO EXPRESS THIS OPINION IN THE UN."

6. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER HIS COUNTRY
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WOULD SUPPORT THE EXPULSION OF SPAIN FROM UN, HUNGARY'S AMBASSADOR, SZIVA PEJAK, REPORTEDLY REPLIED: "ONE HAS TO CONDEMN ALL THAT HAS OCCURRED IN SPAIN AS WHAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE REST OF THE WORLD." HE ADDED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN LARGE-SCALE PROTESTS IN HUNGARY AGAINST THE FRANCO GOVERNMENT AND THAT IN RESPONSE HUNGARY HAS CALLED HOME ITS COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM SPAIN.

7. CANADIAN EMBASSY CONTACT REPORTS THAT AMB. LANGLEY ANTICIPATED HE WOULD BE ASKED HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON SPAIN AND CHECKED WITH OTTAWA PRIOR TO PRESENTING HIS CREDENTIALS. CONTACT ALSO SAID THAT THE PRESS INCORRECTLY REPORTED THAT CANADA CALLED ITS AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN HOME WHEN IN REALITY HE WAS ALREADY IN CANADA ON VACATION AND THE GOC SIMPLY DECIDED TO DELAY HIS RETURN TO MADRID.

8. THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MEXICO (PCM) IS REPORTEDLY ORGANIZING A MARCH, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 16:30 OCT. 3 IN THE CENTER OF MEXICO CITY AND IS DIRECTED AGAINST FRANCO REGIME AND IMPERIALISM. LATE INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE GOM HAS FORBIDDEN THE MARCH BUT THAT THE PCM INTENDS TO ATTEMPT TO CARRY IT OUT NONETHELESS.
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